As per earlier definition, "a village will be deemed to be electrified if the electricity is used in the inhabited locality, within the revenue boundary of the village for any purpose whatsoever."

As per the new definition, a village would be declared as electrified if:

(i) Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the habited locality as well as the Dalit Basti/hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a Distribution Transformer may not be necessary);

(ii) Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community centres etc.;

(iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village; and

(iv) The Panchayat should certify that the village is electrified."

Athirappilly Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala

848. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary clearance has been given to the Athirappilly Hydel Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) whether detailed study has been undertaken to ascertain the environmental/ecological impact of this project;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the project is expected to be operational ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) The necessary clearances namely, environmental & forest clearances from Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and techno-economic clearance from Central Electricity Authority for implementation of Athirappilly Hydro Electric Project (163 MW = 2 x 80 MW + 2x1.5 MW) in Kerala have been accorded.

(b) Kerala State electricity Board who are implementing the project have informed that the 'letter of award' for the works has been awarded to

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the consortium of M/s. Hindustan Construction Company (HCC) and M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) study has been conducted to ascertain the environmental/ecological impact of the project. In addition to this, studies have also been carried out on the physical status of the reservoirs (such as siltation, power generation against installed capacity) and catchment area with treatment plan for all upstream reservoirs.

(e) The project is expected to be operational during 2008-09.

Amendment in Electricity Act

849. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Power proposes to amend the sections 61, 66, 73, 75, 79, 86, 107 and 108 of the Electricity Act;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to decide how much consumer has to pay instead of regulator; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) There is a proposal to amend the Electricity Act, 2003 which, *inter-alia,* includes amendment to section 61 of the Act in regard to 'elimination' of cross subsidies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Generation and consumption of power in the country

850. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the details of power generation and consumption in various States of the country during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : State-wise power generation and consumption in the country during the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given in the Statement.